

Date Mailed July 3, 2001

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Complaint of United States Cellular Corporation, CenturyTel
Wireless Inc. and New-Cell Inc. against Wisconsin Bell,
Inc., regarding discontinuation of reverse billing agreements

6720-TI-169

**NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION
REGARDING INTENTION TO
DISCONTINUE A SERVICE**

THIS IS A PROCEEDING to investigate the notice published by Wisconsin Bell, Inc. (d/b/a/ Ameritech Wisconsin) (Ameritech), stating that it intends to discontinue contractual agreements to reverse bill land-to-wireless telecommunications service in Wisconsin.

On April 24, 2001, United States Cellular Corporation, CenturyTel Wireless, Inc., and New-Cell Inc. (collectively, complainants) filed a complaint against Ameritech objecting to Ameritech's decision to discontinue reverse billing of land-to-wireless calls in Wisconsin. Reverse billing is an intercarrier billing arrangement that permits a landline telephone end user to call a wireless telephone located outside the end user's local calling area without incurring a toll charge. Instead, the wireless providers (the complainants in this proceeding) pay the wireline carrier (Ameritech) a usage charge for originating and transporting the call. The alternative to a reverse billing arrangement is the standard long distance rate schedule commonly employed for toll calls: the toll carrier bills the end user a toll charge for carrying a long distance call, and compensates the originating and terminating local carriers for their participation in completing the call.

The complaint proposed an investigation under three statutory sections, Wis. Stat. §§ 196.04, 196.20 and 196.219. Since the statute authorizing an investigation into the authority to discontinue a service requires the Commission to adhere to a different schedule than an investigation under Wis. Stat. § 196.04 or 196.219, the Commission will open two dockets to concurrently consider the different aspects of this complaint. This proceeding will consider the first aspect of the complaint, whether Ameritech complied with the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 196.20 in proposing to discontinue reverse billing.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 196.20(1m)(c), the Commission will investigate whether Wis. Stat. § 196.20 authorizes Ameritech to discontinue the reverse billing arrangements it has entered into with the complainants. The Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of

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Wisconsin Bell, Inc. (d/b/a Ameritech Wisconsin). The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from Wisconsin Bell, Inc. (d/b/a Ameritech Wisconsin) in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the docket coordinator listed below.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to docket coordinator Dennis Klaila at (608) 267-9780.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

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